Shortfall in kharif crops due to drought and floods

134. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether different State Governments have submitted their estimates about the loss of their Kharif crops due to drought and floods this year in the country;

(b) if so, the State-wise and overall shortfall in yield of Kharif crops this year; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken to handle the situation to hold the consumer prices and to help out the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) In the National Conference on Agriculture for Rabi campaign held on 24th and 25th September, 2009, State Governments have presented their estimates of Kharif crops loss due to delayed/ abnormal monsoon. The crop-wise position at All-India level as per First Advance Estimates is given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below). The situation of the production is likely to improve in the subsequent estimates since States revise it at later stage.

(c) In order to compensate the projected production losses in kharif season to some extent, various steps have been initiated by the Government. States are provided advisories for contingency crop planning, programmatic interventions such as use of Truthful Labelled (TL) seeds, relaxation of age for seed varieties, enhanced cost norms of seed subsidy rates of rice, wheat and pulses are taken up to support the efforts of farmers. Area specific approach adopted to achieve higher production through provisioning of inputs like fertilizers, credit, pest control measures, etc. in the areas with higher rainfall. Planning for timely supply of inputs such as quality seed, adequate quantity of fertilizers for rabi is ensured through tie-up with various agencies. Periodic district level Visits of experts/ consultants in the ministry to states have been initiated to assist in salvaging the ground level problems and also for helping States in preparation and implementation of rabi plans effectively. Additional areas under boro/ summer rice, wheat, pulses are planned to compensate the Kharif losses to some extent. Additional wheat minikits of rust resistance, heat tolerant varieties such as DBW 17 were distributed to cover additional areas under wheat for increasing production. Enhanced pulses production through area expansion especially of green gram in rice fallows in Punjab, Haryana, Western Uttar Pradesh, and chick pea in rice fallows of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh is planned. Additional seed quantity is made available to the states as per the required demand assessed in the zonal input review meetings.

Statement

First Advance Estimates of production of kharif crops for 2009

(Million Tonnes)

Crop	Kharif 2008	Kharif 2009	Increase/decrease over last year (+)/(-)
Rice	84.58	69.45	-15.13
Kharif Coarse cereals	28.34	22.76	-5.58
Kharif Pulses	4.78	4.42	-0.36
Kharif foodgrains	117.70	96.63	-21.07
Kharif Oilseeds**	178.82	152.33	-26.49
Cotton*	231.56	236.57	+5.01
Sugarcane**	2739.31	2494.82	-244.49

*in lakh bales
** in lakh tonnes

Low yield of pulses

135. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that yield of pulses is very low in the country compared to that in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details of the yield in the country and other major pulses producing countries;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Tata Strategic Management Group has suggested some measures to achieve a revolution in pulses production in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of yield of pulses in the country *vis-a-vis* major pulse growing countries in the world is given as under:

Yield kg/ha

		Years			
Sl. No.	Countries	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1.	India	577	598	612	625
2.	Franch	4555	3995	3454	3711
3.	USA	1812	1884	1721	1908
4.	Canada	2016	1998	1808	1804
5.	China	1532	1580	1644	1752
6.	Syria	693	693	694	1026
7.	Australia	950	1410	492	887